26

PEARS for PLUMS, Or a Conferance between a Gardiner and an Orange Wench in Alusion to the.

K

Gardiner. WHat is this you have in your Basket, Fair Maid?

Orange Wench. A Parcel of very Excellent Pears, Sir.

G. Pears, Let me see them I perceive they are a percel of over ripened Fruit scarce fit for use; pray what Mercat do you think to make of them.

O W. Sir, how Lightly soever you are pleased to esteem my Pears, I am assurd by my Lady's Gardiner that they are of the most Ancient Stocks in *Europe*, and they have a very good Relish to the Taste of all who Value Honour and Antiquity,

G. Honour and Antiquity, these are empty Names, of no Signification save only to shew that they are Antiquated and Merit no other Treatment than to be Rooted out, that new *Stocks* may be planted in their Room which may produce Fruit more agreable to the Teste of every deserning Palate.

O W. I know not what you mean Sir, by deserning Palates, but by the Approbation of all who pretend to know *Fruit*, I know these Pears are Reckoned no way Inferior to the best in *Britain*.

G. Fair Maid I shall say nothing of your Fruit but what I said already, that they are over ripened, and it is a certain Maxim in Philosiphy, *That Fruit after having arrived to its full Maturity begins to decay*, and this being the Case of your Pears they must necessarly be in a declining State.

O W. Sir *I* pretend not to be a Philosipher, and therefore am no Competent Judge of what shall be the issue of my Pears, but this I know, that in the present State they are no less Valuable then any other Fruit of the same kind in *Europe*.

G. Do not tell me of Rodomatodo stories, the case is plain, your *Pears* are in a declining State, and you must know if you know any thing of Bussiness, that no comodity in a decling condition is a profitable Subject of Comerce, and it most be a very fondness to put an Estimate upon your *Pears* so very far above the Value put upon them by every Body else.

O W. Sir I have had the Honour to be a Servent to my Lady, *Madam Scocia*, of a long Time, and I have observed that every Body has had the same opinion of her Pears that she has her self, save a Neighbeuring Gentleman who would have her Orchard to himself, some way after the manner that *Achan* wold have had *Naboth's* Vineyerd.

G. Tush, tush, dear Girle I know Madam *Scocia* very will an Antient Gentle Woman indeed, her Antiquity resembles some thing the Antiquity of my Doubler, that is thread bare, but my dear Girle what can thou propose in the Service of such an aged decay'd Gentle Woman, if thou will promise to be a good Girle, and but perform what thy Face boacs, I can get thee into my *Lord's* Family, where thou shan't be as a Servant, but a Comrad to our Lady and her Chidren.

O. W. I thank you Sir for this kind Offer, but as my Lady has been very kind to me I cannot now Leave her in her old age.

G. How agreeable soever this Reloluti n of thine may be to the principals of *Religion* Gratitude, Virtue and Generosity. I am sure it is very agreeable to the Maxims of Policy and *Interst* the more fashonable Vertues by far, and I cannot think you are so much blind to your Interest as to neglect this fair Opportunity.

O W. Well Sir, What Conditions shall I have.

G. Excellent Conditions dear Girle, you shall have Conditions even at your making; You shall in the first place have an Equivalent for your Pears- You shall have euqel priveleges Imunities and benifits with the rest of my Lord's Famliy, and you shall in all Respects be treated as a Child of the House, only be a good Girle as *I* dar promise that you will,

O W. Its true Sir every one is obliged to do for himself, and seeing my Lady cannot do for me what you promise *I* am not obliged to miss a good pertunity for attending her, but what is it you'le give me for my Pears.

G. Come my dear, here is a Bushel of excelent Plums for them.